

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR
SENTINEL BLOOD SAMPLES
January 2006**

REMEMBER TO TAKE A REFERENCE BLOOD SAMPLE FROM EACH OF YOUR CHICKENS ON THE DAY YOU PICK THEM UP. SAVE THIS SAMPLE FOR REFERENCE AND PLACE IN REFRIGERATOR, SEND TO VRDL ONLY IN THE EVENT YOUR FIRST 2-WEEK SAMPLE FROM THAT BIRD COMES UP POSITIVE.

Blood samples (dried on filter paper strips) should be stapled onto cards and must be accompanied by form MBVS-2 (Sentinel Chicken Blood-2006) outside the plastic bag. Do not staple form to bag.

Send to:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, RICHMOND CAMPUS
SPECIMEN RECEIVING ROOM B106 (ATTN: ARBO)
850 MARINA BAY PARKWAY
RICHMOND, CA 94804

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bi-weekly dry blood sample submissions:

1. **Ensure all staff involved follows these instructions exactly!**
2. Blood samples are collected on half-inch wide filter paper strips. THE BLOOD MUST COMPLETELY SOAK THROUGH ON A ¾ INCH LENGTH OF THE STRIP. Use alcohol swabs on comb before bleeding and ensure strip is dried in dust free environment.
3. Each strip must include the date bled and the wing band number.
4. Attach strips to a 5" X 7" card in sequential order, from left to right. See example on next page.
5. Place the soaked-end down. Attach samples firmly to card in same sequence as listed on form. Sample should not move.
6. Do not cover the information on the strips.
7. Place the following on the card:
County, Agency code, Site, and Date Bled.
8. Place card with attached samples in a Zip Lock plastic bag large enough to fit around card.
(Do not use plastic wrap.)
9. Do not staple form to bag.
10. Do not put form in the bag with the samples.
11. Do not put more than one sample card per bag.

In the laboratory a single punch is removed from the blooded end of the paper and placed into one well of a 96-well plate with 150 µl of diluent. Specimens are allowed to soak for 2 hours on a rotator and the eluate tested for WEE, WNV and SLE IgG antibody using the ELISA. Positive specimens are confirmed the following Thursday using an indirect fluorescent antibody test.

Confirmation sample submissions:

1. Bleed the chicken (s) requested "for confirmation" into vacutainer/microtainer tubes.*

2. Centrifuge whole blood and aliquot serum into micro-centrifuge tube. Do not put whole blood into micro-centrifuge tube.
3. Clearly state sites, site code, band number, and date bled on tube. If sending whole blood (only if unable to send serum) vacutainer/microtainer tubes must be sent on blue ice (ice packs). For serum aliquots, shipments must be sent accompanied by dry ice. Whole blood is not serum. Do not send frozen whole blood.
4. A completely filled out copy of form MBVS-2 must accompany each separate confirmation sample submitted. Indicate on form that the sample is for "confirmation."
5. Ship sample (s) in an adequate shipping container with appropriate "potentially hazardous" shipment precaution taken.
6. You must include a valid return address with each shipment.

Contact Al Hom, VBDS in Richmond (510) 412-6252 concerning any questions about sample submissions or test results.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENTINEL BLOOD

Attach filter paper strips to a 5" X 7" card as shown below. Write the date number on the blank end of each strip and write the identifying information shown

COUNT	THESE ARE CHICKEN BLOOD									
AGENCY	SAMPLES									
SITE										
DATE										
PLACE STRIPS IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER AS LISTED ON THE FORM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT										
STAPLE THIS END										
DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #	DATE BAND #

VRDL sets up tests of sentinel chicken blood samples on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Your samples must arrive at VRDL by 5pm on Monday. It is up to you which day of the week you bleed your birds and which day you ship the samples to VRDL. However, we suggest bleeding the birds in time to ship or mail them on Wednesday (to ensure that they are in Richmond on Friday and no later than Monday). You should verify that your samples were tested on time. If the weekly surveillance bulletin doesn't show that your samples were tested, the most likely reason is that they did not arrive in the laboratory by 5PM on Monday. Be sure that the names of the person to be notified of positive samples and the alternate are listed. If you or the alternate are available by telephone during working hours on Wednesday, you will be notified of at least the first positive sample from your sites.